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The WEEKLY SUMMARY, issued every Friday morning by the Office of Current Intelligence, reports and analyzes significant developments of the week through noon on Thursday. It frequently includes material coordinated with or prepared by the Office of Economic Research, the Office of Strategic Research, the Office of Geographic and Cartographic Research, and the Directorate of Science and Technology.

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ARGENTINA: PERON DEFIANT

President Peron's latest rejection of demands by the military commanders for her resignation could increase pressure for a military coup.

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[redacted] on January 5 the three service chiefs met with the President to issue a flat demand that she leave office. Although many officers have for some time advocated Peron's departure, this is the first report that the three service chiefs have confronted her personally with the demand.

The President, who has surprised many with her determination to stay in office, angrily refused the demand, telling the commanders they did not have the power to force her from office. Following the meeting with the military chiefs, Peron chaired a lengthy session with the cabinet, during which bitter controversies, possibly related to her tenure, reportedly surfaced among her ministers. According to the latest press reports, she now intends to form a new cabinet.

The President is said to be distraught, depressed, and exhausted after the acrimonious cabinet meeting and the confrontation with the service chiefs. She failed to make a scheduled public appearance the next day. She did, however, subsequently address a military graduation ceremony and again sounded a defiant note.

Peron's vigorous reaction to the resignation demand leaves the service commanders in an increasingly awkward position. They have been under growing pressure from coup-minded officers either to secure the President's departure soon or yield to more activist officers. Some reports indicate that air force officers who rebelled last month ended their revolt only on the promise that Peron would be out within a month. [redacted]

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